

THE SWORD OF THE LORD

and of John R. Rice

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

An Independent Religious Weekly, Standing for the Verbal Inspiration of the Bible, the Deity of Christ, His Blood Atonement, Salvation by Faith, New Testament Soul Winning and the Premillennial Return of Christ. Opposes Sin, Modernism, and Denominational Overlordship

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Multitudes Hearing of Sam Morris' Good Work

(The *Defender Magazine*, edited by Dr. Gerald B. Winrod of Wichita, Kansas, a magazine with tremendous circulation, recently published the following about our dear friend and brother, Rev. Sam Morris of Del Rio, Texas. We rejoice in the blessing God is giving His work).

A Texan has stepped to the front, to capture the popular imagination, in launching an uncompromising defense against the sordid interests, which are rapidly bemusing the mind and benumbing the soul of a whole Nation. His name is Dr. Samuel N. Morris. He has become known as "The Voice of Temperance." He has trained millions of people to dial the large Mexican border radio stations, to hear his powerful blasts in defense of national sobriety.

His broadcasts could also be called "The Voice of Conscience," since no man before the public, is doing more to probe the slumbering conscience of the American people, than this giant for God.

Dr. Morris is simply making vocal the feeling of resentment which millions of Americans feel, toward the agencies responsible for the present lapse in national morality.

It was more than four years ago that Dr. and Mrs. Morris began praying earnestly for an opportunity to present the message of Christian morality over the ether waves. On Christmas day, 1935, Mr. W. E. Branch, manager of XEPN, the super-power broadcasting station at Eagle Pass, invited Dr. Morris to come down to the border and begin a series of programs.

He was to make two broadcasts daily, for a period of thirty days. At the end of that time, expressions of appreciation had so deluged station offices, that "The Voice of Temperance" was invited to continue. Since that time, he has established the reputation of being America's great opponent of the liquor interests.

During the broadcast season which covers October to April, Dr. Morris receives letters numbering into the thousands, expressing thanks for the work he is doing. Scores of these heart-warming messages tell of homes saved, lives salvaged, and hopes restored, because men and women have been inspired to give up drink and travel the path of cleanliness and sobriety.

It was the pleasure of this writer to attend a temperance rally recently, where Dr. Morris was the speaker. At the close of the address, delivered before a packed house, an interview was granted. At that time, permission was given to quote from three such letters, which he had received a short time before . . .

From a man in Missouri: "I just feel like writing and telling you how much good you have done for me. I was an awful man until a year ago. It was then I began listening to your radio broadcasts. I am the father of eight children. In recent years, I have never known a sober breath. In a drunken moment, I killed a man and was lodged in jail. When I got out, a friend insisted that I listen to your broadcast . . . I haven't touched a drop of liquor since I have been listening to you."

From a mother: "My son drank before he heard your Voice of Temperance programs, but now he

never does. He has listened to you, almost all of your four years on the air. He is all I have in this world and I can't thank you enough for what you have done for him."

From another mother: "Two of my sons were drinkers until they began listening to your talks, Mr. Morris. They were convinced of the wrong of drink, after hearing you. They have joined the church and both are officers in the church and Sunday school, and are now living clean, happy lives, thanks to the Voice of Temperance."

To say that this man is proud of such letters would be to put it mildly. He carries a pocket full of them wherever he goes.

And while he revels in the knowledge of helping individuals to find themselves morally and spiritually, he also keeps the thoughts of the economic waste of liquor constantly before his hearers and readers. In a recent article for "The National Voice," he dropped this remark: "Under Prohibition bank deposits mounted, farms and homes were bought and improved, churches sprang up, and full dinner-pails took the place of beer buckets. Wives rejoiced because of sober husbands."

Aside from his radio activities, Dr. Morris is Associate Editor and field representative for the oldest Prohibition newspaper in the United States — *The National Voice*, which is just entering its 69th year. Miss Ethel Hubler edits this journal, the editorial offices of which are located at 126 West Third, Los Angeles.

Dr. Morris is a Texan — a fighting Texan. In his veins flows the blood of the pioneer; the man who blazes new trails and manifests originality of thought and deed; the crusader whose forebears

"HE LOST AN ARGUMENT WITH DEATH"

A notorious infidel died in Dallas the other day and the Dallas News said, "He lost an argument with death." For years this boasted unbeliever had carried on his publications, blaspheming God, lying about the Bible, slandering preachers and church members. No doubt, he enjoyed it. He enjoyed big words, ribald stories, and profane language. But now "he lost an argument with death." The years of his folly are done, and he is face to face with God. He has learned already that the Bible is true, that Hell is a real place, that one cannot mock God, and that men reap what they sow.

"The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good" (Psalm 14:1). Any man can get an audience who likes to slander preachers and call Christians hypocrites and blaspheme the Bible and defy God, but he is a fool nevertheless. He is a fool because he does not look facts in the face, a fool because he is not willing to know the truth. He is a fool in his heart because infidelity always comes from a corrupt heart.

And sooner or later every infidel, every mocker at God must "lose an argument with death." What then.

Sinner, you, too, will "lose an argument with death." Prepare to meet God!

Jesus Is Coming

I. How and When; II. What Christ's Coming Will Mean to Us; III. What We Should Do In View of His Coming.

BY JOHN R. RICE

(Sermon of Dr. John R. Rice Sunday night, July 9, 1939, Dallas, Texas. Stenographically reported).

I. HOW AND WHEN

Turn with me to Luke, chapter twenty-one, and we will begin reading with verse twenty-five:

"And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring;

"26. Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.

"27. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

"28. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.

"29. And he spake to them a parable; Behold the fig tree, and all the trees;

"30. When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand.

"31. So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand.

"32. Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled.

"33. Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.

"34. And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness (eating too much, drinking too much), and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares."

Look out that you be not interested in eating and drinking and the cares of this life; beware lest that day come on you unawares, when you are not looking for it.

"35. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.

"36. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man."

Christ Is Really Coming Again

First of all, the Lord Jesus is coming. He is coming literally and really. Nothing is more positively stated in the entire Bible than that the Lord Jesus is coming back again. The Scripture I have just read says, "Then shall they SEE the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory." They shall see Him. Jesus said, "If I go . . . I will come again." As certain as His going away, so certain is His second coming. As physical as His going away, so physical is His coming. As literal as His going away, as visible as His going away, just that visible and that

literal will be the return of Christ.

In Acts the second chapter when Jesus went away, two angels stood by in white apparel and said, "Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." Now this same Jesus is coming again. He went away, visibly, with a human body, a body with nail scars in His hands and feet and a wound in His side. The disciples put their hands on Jesus and they saw He was not just a spirit or ghost but He had flesh and bones. They said, "Our hands have handled him" (I John 1:1). The angels said, "This same Jesus is coming again" (Acts 1:11). As certain as He went away, He is coming again. This same Jesus who went away is coming back again, literally, visibly, physically, bodily, really, without any subterfuge, without any trickery. The Lord Jesus is coming back with a human body to this earth.

In Revelation the first chapter, verse seven, hear these words:

"Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen."

One day a woman heard me over the radio and wrote in and said, "Brother Rice, I like your preaching fine. I think it is just right. As far as I understand your preaching, it is just like Judge Rutherford's. Please write and tell me if you agree with Judge Rutherford in everything."

I told her more than that! She said she had a good many of his books. I told her to send me one or two of his books and I would mark them and show her I did not preach and did not believe what Judge Rutherford does about the second coming. She sent me one of Judge Rutherford's books, and in this book that she sent, he said that Jesus came in 1914, that He was already here in the world, and that the coming of Jesus was only in some spiritual sense. I wrote on the fly-leaf of that book these words: "Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him."

There will be no misunderstanding when Jesus comes. It could not possibly be a secret. It could not possibly be kept. I know that this Scripture (Rev. 1:7) refers to His return to reign on the earth when He comes down and when His feet land on the mount of Olives, and the Jews are regathered and the battle of Armageddon takes place, and Jesus sets up His reign on the earth. I know that is the time He has in mind, but I remind you that even the rapture, the time when He comes after His saints, when the dead in Christ arise and we are caught up to meet Jesus in the skies; that could not possibly be secret. It could not possibly be figurative. It must be real and literal and definite, and every person on the earth will soon know it when it takes place, for there will be literally millions of people caught away in a moment. And no phenomenon like that ever hit this earth before. I say, Jesus is really coming, praise God!

No Man Knows the Day or Hour Of Christ's Coming

The next thought is this: We do

not know when. There are those who say, "We will look at the great pyramid and figure out when He will come. We will measure out to where we believe, perhaps, the outside layer used to be (but it is not there now). We will estimate where we think the outside layer used to be. We will take a foot rule or a steel tape and measure the inside. Here is a bump in the think. That means something. A little farther it is enlarged. That is a time of prosperity. You come on down a little farther and there is a passage and it goes into the heart of the great pyramid. This passage is narrow. That is a time of trouble, perhaps of war." They say, "We will make every inch mean a year." Why? "Well, we just want to do it that way." So they make every inch mean a year. They come on and count so many inches. It is about 1940 inches and the thing comes to an end, and opens into a big space. That is about 1940, or some said 1936; September 16, 1936. They say, "On such and such a date, therefore, Jesus is coming." They are lying. They are deceived. The Bible says, "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven" (Matt. 24:36). Even the angels do not know.

Somebody says, "I will tell you what to do. The Bible mentions a period of time, 1260 days. That makes forty-two months, or three and a half years. We ought to make a day mean a year. So instead of 1260 days, they make it mean 1260 years. The Bible does not say that. They say they prefer to make it mean that. Then they double that time for the other three and a half years, or half of a week of seven years. "We will double that and make it mean twenty-five hundred and some odd years. We will take a little from it and add a little to it, counting less for lunar months, and we will make it come out by that estimate." Seventh Day Adventists did that. They said that in 1844 the Lord Jesus would return again. They put on their white robes and they gathered on the mountain tops waiting for His return. They sold their farms or gave them away, and they were ready to go. (CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

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JESUS IS COMING

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

And behold, the Lord Jesus did not come! So they had to come home and wash their white robes and make sheets out of them and go to work for a living. They missed it that time, but in a couple of years, in 1846, they tried it again. And later they tried it again. And they are still saying, "We missed it that time, but the time is coming soon." My friend, nobody knows the day nor the hour when the Son of Man is going to come. Nobody knows when!

Somebody says, "Brother, I can show you how smart I am. I can prove by the Bible, or by signs, or I can prove from history, or I can prove by the great pyramid that Jesus will come at such and such a time." I say, "You are a deceiver. You do not know anything about it." Nobody knows the day nor the hour. Nobody can tell, not even the angels in Heaven know ahead of time when Jesus is coming.

Christ May Come at Any Moment

Now another thing that I want to lay on your heart about the second coming is: it may be at any moment. There is nothing clearer in the Bible than that. Jesus says, "Watch therefore; for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come" (Matt. 24:42). And again He said, "What I say unto you, I say unto all, Watch" (Mark 13:37). What is the one word Jesus gave to the Christian about His coming? Watch. Every day since Jesus went away every Christian that did his duty looked that Jesus might come that day. You say, "But He didn't come." Yes, I know, but they did their duty to watch, for He might have come.

Somebody says there are certain prophetic events that must come first, and then Jesus is likely to come. I say you are mistaken. If the Bible means what it says, then it means that at any moment — you do not know what moment — Jesus may come. When Paul wrote about it, he said, "We that are alive and remain." Paul said, "Oh, He may come while I am alive. I will count myself with those alive." Paul expected Jesus to come in his time. You say, "Paul was mistaken." No, Paul was not mistaken in doing exactly what Jesus said. Jesus might have come at that time. Or somebody says, "Well, but first doesn't the gospel have to be preached to all the world?" The gospel has already been preached to all the world. Turn to Acts the second chapter, at Pentecost, the Scripture says, "And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven." So the gospel has already been preached to every nation. When Paul wrote to Rome in the book of Romans, he said to them, "Your

Multitudes Hearing of Sam Morris' Work

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

helped drive the invaders back accompanied with shouts of "Remember the Alamo." And it is also true, that he may say, like the commanding officer of the Alamo fortress: "P. S.—The Lord is on our side."

Dr. Morris is anything but a sentimentalist. He is a practical man — a man with a scientific turn of mind, accustomed to analyzing things down to their root causes. He makes science to constantly serve him as he pegs his facts systematically in broadcasts, sermons, lectures and editorials.

THE SWORD OF THE LORD and of John R. Rice

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JOHN R. RICE, EDITOR, Pastor of Fundamental Baptist Church

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faith is spoken of throughout the whole world." The whole world had heard about the Christians at Rome. The Bible makes clear that the gospel had already gone to every nation. Nothing remains before Jesus comes. In truth, that Scripture that the gospel must be preached to all the world is talking about the tribulation time, and it is the Jewish remnant that will carry the gospel everywhere before Jesus comes back to reign after He has carried us away. And then after the tribulation Jesus is coming back again to set up His kingdom. In those three and a half years of the tribulation time, the gospel will be carried everywhere by converted Jews and others who will preach then.

Nobody knows when the coming will be. It is likely to be at any moment.

If Jesus does not come before we get home tonight, when you lay your head on your pillow, say, "Well, blessed be God! Jesus may come before tomorrow morning." That would be a glad good morning! If we wake up in the morning and Jesus has not come yet, we can say, "This may be the great day when I will hear the trumpet sound and the voice cries, 'Behold, the bridegroom cometh, go ye out to meet him.'" You may, before another night, not lay your weary bones down to rest. You women may not fix another meal. God bless you, good women, with your sorrows and heartaches. You may well say, "Thank God, Jesus may come tonight!" Tonight, while I speak, Jesus may come. Oh, it may be this moment. Nothing prophesied intervenes. He is certain to come, and He may come today! It may literally be true that millions of saved people who are now alive will never die, but will be caught up to meet Christ in the air.

Christ is really coming. Nobody knows when. It may be tonight. It may be now — anytime.

Fulfilled Signs Prove His Coming Near

Here is another thing: The coming of Jesus is near. There are many signs to indicate the coming is certain to be soon. I do not know when, but many signs indicate He is certain to come soon. Did you hear me read in Luke, chapter twenty-one, that there will be signs in the moon, and in the stars, and distress of nations? Now the governments of the nations are distressed and burdened and harassed by debts, harassed by war and rumors of war, by poison gas, bombing planes. Spies are everywhere. "Distress of nations, the sea and the waves roaring, and men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of Heaven will be shaken." These are the signs that must come to pass before we see the Son of Man come — distress of nations, wars and rumors of wars, and kingdom rising against kingdom and nations against nations. They are here now, and Jesus is likely to come soon.

Let me read you in II Timothy, chapter three. Are these days the last days? Listen and judge for yourself:

"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

"2. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

"3. Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

"4. Traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

"5. Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof . . ." (II Tim. 3:1-5).

I say that that is a picture of the last days, and that is a picture of these days. Surely we must be in the last days. I say that there are many evidences that Jesus may come at any moment. He is bound to come soon. There are evidences everywhere.

Let me mention some political signs. The Bible says that the Jews will go back to Palestine and when the man of sin first appears there will be enough Jews there, a remnant, that he will make a

treaty with them. They will have a temple and will have worship again. That could not happen while England had charge of Palestine because she is not a part of the Roman Empire. England is now withdrawing from Palestine. Already a remnant of Jews is being rushed in by the Zionist Movement. And Tel-Aviv, one of the new cities there, now has large universities, with many modern buildings. They have there now modern conveniences such as radios, telephones, colleges, high schools and so on. They have all the luxuries of modern life in this great city in the midst of Palestine, Tel-Aviv. The old cities, Jerusalem and others, are being built up again. Things are getting ready for the Roman Empire. Mussolini has already taken Ethiopia and Albania. Mussolini has joined with Hitler in the Roman-Berlin Axis. He has joined with Japan in the East. We do not know, it might be that in a moment Jesus will come and take us away and by tomorrow the Roman Empire might be a fact — who knows? — and the Man of Sin be revealed.

I say that there are many evidences, and many signs that prove surely Jesus must come soon. Many Scriptures prove that He might come at any time, but it is very likely He will come soon. Oh, how pressing, hard on the heels of one another, are the signs of the second coming! The modernism in the churches, the coldness everywhere — think about your own heart. A dear young fellow said to me the other day (and my own heart feels the same many times), "I feel indifferent and lukewarm. I do not feel concerned about it. I am backslidden in heart." I wonder, what about your heart? That very thing shows you that we are in what the last days will bring. The last message to the seven churches, the message to the church of the Laodiceans is: "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot." I wonder how many Christians find it hard these days to stay near Christ, and find it hard to keep on praying, find it hard to sacrifice when others around you are worldly, find it hard to resist temptation, and go with the world when you did not mean to, and break your own heart. How many Christians find it is hard to live a devoted, consecrated life? Do you know what that means? That means we are in the end time; in those last days when the prince of the power of the air — Satan — is around about; when men will be demon-possessed as never before, and more unsaved people will commit the unpardonable sin than ever before, and the saints of God will be like the five wise virgins. Even the wise virgins, representing saved people, will slumber and sleep and their lamps grow smoky and need trimming. Oh, Jesus must come soon. There are too many signs to deny it!

II. HOW CHRIST'S COMING WILL AFFECT US

Many Joys

The second main point is: How will the coming of Jesus affect us? First of all, there will be many joys. I will not dwell on them now, but will only mention them. I must be growing old because I tell you, I have an increasing hunger for the people that are gone — my good father and others. A man told me the other day how old his father was, and I began to count up. And another old man told me he was born in 1861, and when he told me that, I figured he was eighty-one or eighty-two and he was born four years after my father was. God bless the memory of my good dad! I will see my mother, and I will see dear P. B. Chenault, bless his name, and I will see many another gone on before. I will see Brother Middleton, too. That will be wonderful. I will see the Lord Jesus and I will kiss His feet. I can put my finger in His nail scars if I want to. There will be many joys when Jesus comes. I am so glad He is coming. I will see my mother and my father, and I will see Jesus. I will put off this old body. I get hot these days. I wish I could get as hot spiritually as I was physically yesterday. One day we will not need any air-conditioning. That will all be fixed, bless God!

There is something else to consider about Jesus' coming. First,

all the carnal and worldly matters will be left behind. Your business will be left behind. Paul said, "Do not be worried about your belly or what you eat. God shall destroy both it and them." Oh, so many of us spend our time satisfying our stomach with something to eat. God said that all of these days will be soon past, anyway. He did not mean we were not to eat, but that we should be spiritually-minded and eating was but an incident. He wanted that our passions do not control us. He said, "God shall destroy both it and them." Brother, when Jesus comes a lot of things are going to be done. I imagine one day there will come a great cry, "Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him," and Brother Patton will say, "I have got to get to Machinery Sales and Supply Co.," but you will leave it all behind. I can imagine Brother Widner might say, "What about Laurel Land Memorial Park? We are planning a lot of things out there; landscaping, etc." But the Lord will say, "That's all right, Earl. Laurel Land is already ruined." It will be then. I do not think all the graves will be disturbed, but the dirt will be scattered everywhere. It will need landscaping all over again, Brother Widner, when God gets through with it when Jesus comes. You will be gone, and you will leave behind your business. That is a thing you had better remember.

I can imagine at that time, there will be things I want to do. I might say, "Lord, I was looking forward to the time when I would go to Cedar Lake, Indiana. I was to speak for eight days. We had planned it so long, and Christian

Business Men of Chicago had put big advertisements, whole page advertisements, in some of the Christian magazines, and had been advertising for months now over radio and through the press, and I was to be the principal speaker there. Lord, am I not going to get to go out to that big Bible Conference where people will come from all over America?" And He will say, "There will be no Bible Conference. That doesn't matter now. You are coming on with me." Yes, one day I am going to leave my business and leave everything else. When Jesus comes, I am going to say "Good-bye." We had better get ready for it.

I remember that a little boy was drowned in Forest Park Pool in Fort Worth, and I was asked to preach the funeral. The reason I was asked was that when he was just a child — he was only twelve years old — I won him to Christ. I had the joy of showing him the way of salvation. The family asked me to preach the funeral, and I did. After the service was over, the next day his father came down and said, "Mr. Rice, I want to talk to you." He sat there and talked about "Scotty." That is what they called him. His father said, "I went out in the garage and looked around and there was the little train and the top and the kite and the ball and gloves. I stepped out a little farther and looked down the street a few blocks and saw that awning business on Henderson Street — that business I had loved and put my brain into, and toil into, and spent sleepless nights over, and worked and worked and worked at it. And just then for the first time I

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

Twice Born --- And Then?

The Life Story and Message of Andrew Gih of Shanghai

Here is the story of the conversion and call to preach and ministry and life of a Chinese infidel. It will thrill your soul. The autobiography is edited by J. Edwin Orr, the famous young English evangelist.

You will be delighted with the story of the conversion of "Tiger Chow" and with many other remarkable events related in the book. There are twelve chapters, seven of them the life story of this remarkable Chinese preacher, once an infidel, and five chapters are Bible Study on the Holy Spirit, or things that are to follow conversion.

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DALLAS, TEXAS

"Ye Must Be Born Again"

10 REVIVAL MESSAGES

By HYMAN APPELMAN, Texas Evangelist
(With foreword by Dr. L. R. Scarborough, President, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary)



Did you read the article, *For Christ's Sake*, printed in *The Sword of the Lord* last week? It was from this book, YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN. There are nine other sermons equally as good. These ten burning sermons are by one of the greatest soul winners in America. Hyman Appelman is a Christian Jew. Trained to be a lawyer, saved and set on fire by the Holy Spirit, he goes up and down the land, winning thousands of souls to Christ. Not as well known outside of Texas as he ought to be, this young preacher with a warm heart and consecrated tongue preaches with a fervor and passion that is used in remarkable revivals. Again that is used in short revivals of two weeks or so in local Baptist churches, this man has one hundred, two hundred and even three hundred conversions.

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1. "Ye Must Be Born Again"
2. The Answer By Fire
3. Compassion
4. Only Believe
5. Second Coming of Christ
6. For Christ's Sake
7. Lost, Sought, Saved
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JESUS IS COMING

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

thought about it. When I went out and saw that little fellow's toys, how he went off and left them, it suddenly appeared to me that I am going to leave my toys one day. This factory is only a toy. I will go off and leave it just as certainly as Scotty left his little train out there in the garage. Your business will not look so big then.

Brother Greer may say, when Jesus comes, "But a lady out here has a leak in her bathroom, and has already telephoned for a plumber. I have got to go." And the Lord will say, "Never mind your plumbing tools, you will not need them in Heaven." You do not have to run plumbing under the streets that are already paved with gold. You wouldn't know quite how to do it up there, would you? God is not going to be much interested in plumbing, and you are not either, when Jesus comes. This whole thing will be left behind. I wish we knew how transitory, how temporary these things are that we waste our time and thought about! God knows they are little enough. I know they are bread and meat to us. And it is not only bread and meat. Men do not work so hard for just that. It is a sort of pride; it is being somebody; it is doing something worthwhile; it is doing a good job; it is main-

taining a good name. I know that. But I will tell you, one of these days you will say, "Good-bye," without time even to regret it. You will be gone, and only a few silly toys will be left behind. Listen to me, a man plays the fool to have his heart set on the things of this world. He will go off and leave them one of these days. That is the reason the Lord Jesus says, "And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares." For it is coming like a snare on the whole world, Jesus said. Oh, the second coming of Jesus! He will come one of these days, and every Christian will say good-bye to a lot of foolishness that he has wasted years on and built up and built up, and now it is thrown away and wasted.

Down on the seashore children take little shovels and buckets and dig in the moist sand. Here they make a fort or build a house with doors and windows, but in a few short hours the wave will lap just a little higher as the tide comes in, and then the next wave will be one inch higher, and the first thing you know, from the lapping of the waves the sand will be washed out as smooth again as it was before! That is the way it will be with all anxiety and time and fret of the things of this world one day. It will be good-bye and they are gone, the silly toys you have wasted your life on. The Lord tells us we had better beware, lest when He comes our hearts are overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness lest it come as a snare and catch us unawares. He is coming; He is certain to come; it

may be at any moment. Oh, friends, when He comes, what will it mean to you?

No More Soul Winning For Us When Jesus Comes

Here is another thing: It will mean good-bye to opportunities to win souls. We are trying to rush this building on to completion. And may I say this to any who were not at church this morning. The Building Committee met twice last week and the Lord blessed us wonderfully. We are going to tear down the old bricks here in the back right away. We already have the preliminary sketches drawn and the finished plans should be completed by the last of this month. In two weeks' time we hope to submit to general contractors and then to sub-contractors for bids on the electric wiring, window frames, brick work, carpenter work; and we hope to get bids on the whole business and decide how to go at it. I want you to earnestly pray about it. Oh, if I should buckle down here and spend my time with things like brick and mortar and dollars and cents, plaster, lath, lumber, labor, raising wages—if I spend my time at that, then suppose in a month or ten days, or tonight, Jesus comes, then my time would be gone and I have held no revivals—oh, how sad I would be! I believe God wants us to build a building, and a good one; one much better than the last one, with more equipment for the Sunday school; to put air-conditioning in and make it modern, but I want you to know God wants us not to put our hearts on that very much. He wants us to have our hearts and minds on souls, and He wants us to have a constant burden of prayer that sinners will come here to the house of God and make it a place of prayer and repentance. If every seat could be a mourner's bench for sinners seeking God; oh, if the aisles would be crowded with sinners coming to God and if the choir would be a place of Hallelujahs over sinners saved—it would be worth building. But if it is not that, then it is not worth it. Not worth our time and energy. It ought to be put on something else. Remember, when Jesus comes we will see that the time spent on worldly things will be gone and wasted, and then what chance will we have to win souls for God?

Did you know after all, as far as we can definitely know, there is only one reason that Jesus does not come, and He tells us what that reason is over in Second Peter the third chapter. He says there will arise scoffers saying, "Where is the promise of His coming?" "I do not believe he is coming," they say. But He says, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but . . ." (this is the secret, this is why His coming is postponed) "but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (II Peter 3:9). He is not willing that sinners should perish, and so since His dear, hungry heart longs to see sinners saved, Jesus says, "Father, let me stay just a little longer. Let John Rice preach, and let others preach, and let the gospel go out in print and over the radio just a little more until somebody else repents." And the hungry heart of God postpones the coming of Jesus for this alone, only that sinners may be saved. And when Jesus comes, then our reaping is done and our sowing is done and our soul winning is over, and I will hold no more revivals.

My wife said this afternoon, "If you do not go this summer and hold a great revival somewhere, I will not know how to remember what happens, for I remember every year by some great revival." She meant when I take my whole family and go for a revival. I have been in several revivals this year where I have gone by myself, but she meant where I take my family with me. My friends, that went as a pang to my soul, like an arrow it struck me. If this summer should be the last I would ever preach, and I had no great revival, it would be a tragedy unspeakable. I would grieve over it a million years. Oh, Jesus is coming, and when He comes, we have had the last chance we will have to win those we ought to win. I can imagine tonight if Jesus comes and there is a cry, "Behold, the Bridegroom cometh! go ye out to

meet him," I can imagine God calls, "Come on, McGuire, it is time to go." And I can imagine McGuire might say, "I want to see Jesus, and I want to see my baby, I am ready to go, but, oh, God! down at the Katy offices there are lost men I had hoped to bring out to hear my preacher. I had hoped one day to face them honestly and urge them to come to Jesus, but I haven't done it. Oh, God, I didn't give my testimony!" But God will say, "It's all done now. Come on."

Or we will say it is McCollum. Suppose the Lord comes tonight, and you and I have to go. We hear the cry, "Behold the Bridegroom cometh, go ye out to meet him!" And McCollum might say, "But, Lord, I haven't preached a sermon! I am called to preach, but I had to make a living, and I didn't cut all strings loose, I didn't go to Bible School, I haven't preached any sermons, I haven't held a single revival. I am called to preach, God! I do not want to be cheated out of my testimony, and cheated out of my calling. Lord, I am called to preach. I haven't gotten to preach any." And the Lord will say, "Your time is up. Come on." And you will say, "But I am not ready." I know you are saved, and I am only using you for an illustration, but your time is going to be done for soul winning pretty soon, and you had better do what you can now. Oh, the night is coming when no man can work! You had better work today and do what you can. Jesus is coming!

I can imagine a call comes tonight for Mitchell. You are going. Your wife is going. These children are going. And Mitchell says, "Oh, God, I haven't been working at soul winning very long. Out yonder at the Lone Star Cement Company there is a whole gang and they curse and swear and they do not want God, and I thought I would win them. Oh, I have prayed, and I intended to, but I didn't. I was afraid I would say too much." (I know you have gone out and talked some). But the Lord says, "It is too late, now. Come on." I tell you, soul winners, you had better win souls now if you are going to do it. You had better do it now. Jesus is coming, and the soul winner's time will be done. If there is anybody you want to win, you had better do it now.

How patient God has been. When you think about that you can al-

most rejoice that He hasn't come. When you think of all those you know that if Jesus comes tonight will be lost and left behind, you can almost rejoice that He has tarried. That is the only reason He does tarry; that is the only thing that keeps Him away. When one of these days the trumpet calls and we meet Jesus in the air, we will see Him and see our loved ones and be done with our sins and we will have a lot of joys, but we will meet a vacant place where some loved one ought to be.

Brother Joe (Joe Rice), let me ask you a theological question. Are there going to be any tears in Heaven? Is there going to be any sorrow in Heaven? Yes, I think there will be tears in Heaven. Brother Joe, that time when the Bible says God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes is over a thousand years after the rapture. Did you know that? You go back (CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

No chance hath brought this ill to me;

'Tis God's own hand, so let it be, He seeth what I cannot see. There is a need-be for each pain, And He one day will make it plain. That earthly loss is heavenly gain. Like as a piece of tapestry

Viewed from the back appears to be Naught but threads tangled hopelessly;

But in the front a picture fair Rewards the worker for his care, Proving his skill and patience rare. Thou art the Workman, I the frame.

Lord, for the glory of Thy Name, Perfect Thine image on the same. —Selected.

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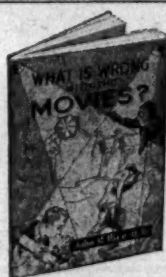
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JESUS IS COMING

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

and read and see. That is a thousand years after Jesus comes to take away His saints. I do not know all that that means; I know I am in deep water; I do not understand it all, but a thousand years later, the Bible says, God Himself will be with them and be their God and will wipe away all tears from their eyes. Someone says, "I do not think that in Heaven we will know who is left behind. Don't fool yourself. We know now. As many children as I have, when one is left behind I know it. I didn't know it for thirteen miles one time when I left one of them, but when I counted up I found one was missing and we had to go back for her. Don't worry, when you get to Heaven you will have plenty of time to look around and find if somebody didn't come you could have won, but you didn't do it, and they are gone!"

You know of the song, "I Dreamed I Searched Heaven for You." I think what a tragedy it will be to get to Heaven and meet everybody, and find some are not there we might have won. I will say, "Tom, isn't this wonderful?" and he will say, "Yes, it is wonderful." You can shout then, or cry, or anything you want to. I will say, "This is better than selling machinery, isn't it?" I will go around and shake hands in Heaven, and I will see Brother and Mrs. Stull from Austin, Minnesota (visitors in the audience). I will look for you and will see you up there. That is going to be joy. We will see our loved ones up there. Forgive me for mentioning it but I cannot talk about it without bringing to mind the burdens of soul winning. Some of you do not understand why I am not a better pastor. I have no heart for it. I go, go, go. You think I do not love you and that I am not a good pastor and I guess I am not. But I tell you, I cannot think of Jesus coming but I see them come in from Waterloo, Iowa; from Minnesota; and from Chicago. They will come from New York state. They will come from Arizona, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Mississippi, Louisiana. I will have a pay-day then when the saints come in. I will have a good time then. But it will be a sad thing that somebody who sat and heard me preach, somebody's face I learned to love, isn't there. I have grieved over you, prayed about you, and preached at you, and I planned and

tried to catch you before you got away, but you wouldn't come. I will look over the myriads of the saved with shining faces and your face will not be there.

And, Christians, I tell you, if you do not want to miss somebody, you had better get them now. What about your little family circle? Is there any one of them who is not saved? When Jesus comes, there will no time then to do your reaping, so do it now so you will have no regrets. Sam, you have a good job. You have lots of friends now, but, Sam, when Jesus comes, there will not be time for soul winning. It will be gone. We had better win souls while we can. The time for soul winning will be gone when Jesus comes, so you had better win them now.

**III. IN VIEW OF CHRIST'S
COMING: OUR DUTY**

All right, what ought we to do in view of these facts. I tell you what we ought to do. First of all let's do this. Let us lay aside every weight and the sin that doth so easily beset us. I would just admit certain things. For instance, every man feels, "I have got to look after my family." I know that. Or you feel like a certain man didn't treat you right and I just can't forget it. You feel that you must lay by for old age. I know, and those things see reasonable and seem logical — until you remember that when Jesus comes everything is gone. Oh, how can I think about worldly things? Let us lay aside every weight. I was searching my heart this afternoon. Oh, if Jesus came, I know I would be so ashamed and sorry that I didn't do soul winning more, that I didn't weep more over sinners. I had plenty of square meals when I ought to have been fasting and praying. Oh, every weight, however big or little, lay it aside, I beg you. Jesus is coming. And the unbelief that besets you, lay it aside, and every grudge, every habit, every sin. Jesus is coming! Let's lay them aside. Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin — unbelief — and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith. Let's do that.

What am I going to do in view of the fact that Jesus is coming? Let me read it to you. In the third chapter of Second Peter, "Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?" (verses 11, 12).

Oh, what manner of persons we ought to be! What manner of a preacher I ought to be! Oh, how can I ever preach without tears? How can I live as if ordinary things matter when there is coming Jesus and the end of all these things. What manner of persons ought we to be! Let us lay aside every weight. Let us start again to crucify self. You know how Paul felt? He said, "I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway" (I Cor. 9:27). Oh, Christian people, lay aside weights tonight! I promise God I will try the best I know how afresh to do that.

I thought (Mrs. Rice and I have been talking about a home) of buying a lot and building here. I should like to do it if God makes it so we can. I want to plan to do that. I have been thinking tonight, I wouldn't — Oh, God, if it means settling down for this world. Oh, God, keep me from it! This world is not my home. I want to look forward to the day when Jesus comes, and anything we build will have to be temporary, with our hearts on another world. You agree to that, don't you, Mother? (Mrs. Rice nods yes).

Oh, what manner of persons we ought to be! We need to be filled with the Spirit of God. These are great days we are in — terrible days, stirring days! These are days when we need the power of God. Wickedness and sin is rampant everywhere. There is a deadness in the souls of Christian people. God, revive us! How we need a reviv-

al! I need it, don't you? I felt like I should stay here and not go to Mississippi. God give us a great revival here in these days. Jesus is coming and what we are going to do, we will have to do quickly.

And let me say another word. Dear, lost sinner, if you are here tonight not saved, what will you do? You ought to say, "God being my helper, I will be saved." Did you know, sinner, this world will blind you and get you interested in your body, in your belly, in what you eat and drink, where you live, about your friends, about fame, but I will tell you now, all these are fading flowers, temporal, carnal things that will be wasted.

Brother McGuire, in the great tribulation time, there is going to be an earthquake and the Katy Railroad will not have a mile of track left that is not broken up. The Magnolia building will be shaken down.

Brother Ragland, one of these days the police force in Dallas cannot keep down all the riot and bloodshed and wickedness that will come on this earth. Oh, my friend, Jesus is coming! If you are a lost sinner, are you going on in a world with hell on earth when Jesus takes away mother and father and all the saints and all the good churches will be gone? Oh, the building will be here but the preachers and Christians will be taken away. Don't you want God tonight? I hope you will turn and be saved tonight.

I have picked on some of you folks tonight. I wish you would take it personally. I wish everybody would take it personally. Brother Hughes will listen while I talk to Tom Patton, and Mrs. Patton will listen. And this fellow in front of him will listen, and the one back of him. I pick on Brother Widner because I am not afraid of him. He is not any bigger than I am. But I want you to listen. My friends, I beg you in Jesus' name, let's take to heart the fact that Jesus is coming, and He is certain to come, and He may come at any moment, and very likely He is bound to come soon.

I have no time to discuss it, but we will stand at the judgment seat of Christ one of these days. I handed out a printed sermon on the judgment tonight, but that judgment is for lost people. Shame on me, I have preached again and again on judgment, I have preached on it many times since I have been in this town, but I have not preached on the judgment that Paul said about us Christians, "For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ" (Rom. 14:10). There is a judgment of Christians. I haven't been preaching on that. I ought to, and I will. We must meet judgment, too; not about our souls, they are already saved if we have trusted in Christ, but about our works. Oh, what a burning of wood, hay and stubble! Oh, the things that are so precious to us now, but they

are trash to God. Some will be naked before God, they will be saved though as by fire with not a thing of reward at all. That is the reason the Bible says some of the first will be last and some of the last shall be first. Some will lose their reward. Don't do it! There will be a great time for some when we hear Him say, "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." To some He will say, "Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things. Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord" (Matt. 25:23). Oh, that day of rewards and judgments. That is the time when soul winners will begin to shine. "They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever" (Dan. 12:3). Oh, friends, let's get ready for that judgment seat of Christ. He said, "Behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be" (Rev. 22:12). Oh, friends, Jesus is coming. Do you believe it? Do you believe He is coming? Then what manner of persons we ought to be with all holy conversation and godliness.

I wonder if you are lost tonight and you want to be saved. Then tonight turn to Christ and be saved. Jesus is coming!

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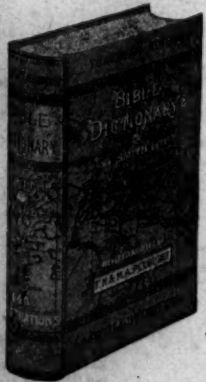
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